

Frederick County Health Department Environmental Health Services

How will the new State septic regulations affect me?



What are the requirements of these new State Regulations?

COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulation) 26.04.02.07

- Any new septic system will be required to utilize Best Available Technology (**BAT**) for Nitrogen Removal with one narrow exception:
 - ✓ Replacement of failing on-site sewage disposal systems where no increase in sewage flows is proposed.
- A person certified by the State Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and BAT manufacturer be present during installation of the BAT system.
- All BAT systems shall be maintained and operated for the service life of the system.

Regulations are effective January 1, 2013.



What is Best Available Technology (BAT)?

- A Nitrogen Removal System that has been field-verified and approved by the State MDE. Seven (7) BAT systems have been approved for use in Maryland with ongoing field testing of other technologies.
- Typical application is to install a complete BAT system in place of a septic <u>tank</u>. Treated wastewater from the BAT system would be discharged {like with a septic tank} to a conventional soil disposal absorption system (e.g. sand mounds, trenches, etc.) for final disposal.
- Approved BAT systems have produced a higher quality effluent with 55-76% removal of Nitrogen. Higher quality effluent has added benefit of extending the design life of the soil disposal system with some research showing improvements to sluggish/failing systems.



What are the costs for BAT systems?

(BAT systems approved for use by MDE)

Installation:

> \$9400 to \$13,500 (includes 5-year service contract)

• Service (Maintenance) Contract:

> \$150 to \$300 per year (1-2 onsite service visits)

• Electricity:

> \$37 to \$284 per year

Other Cost Considerations:

- o Retrofits vs. New Home Construction vs. Major Alterations (Increased Flow)
- Non-Residential/Commercial Use
- Bay Restoration Funding (BRF) failing/existing systems (FCHD public private partnership with CVI – Canaan Valley Institute)



Implementation Preparations

- Outreach and Education (ongoing)
- Certification of Installers by MDE and Vendor
- Coordination of Construction Permitting & Inspection Activities

 Development of Operation and Maintenance Program (BAT systems require routine service to remain functional and efficient)

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Additional information can be provided by calling FCHD at 301-600-1726 or by accessing the Frederick County Government Website